

## **New Tripoli Bank opened March 1, 1910 and just celebrated its 100th year**

**By: Willard A. Snyder, Board Chairman**

**Phaon W. Bittner**, merchant, Jordan., son of Stephen Bittner and Rebecca Wuchter was born April 9, 1857 lived in Jordan (now Pleasant Corner) married Amanda Snyder and they had the following children: Marcus H, Elmer, Albert J, and Clara. He was the owner of a mill and farm implement shop. Charter member of Central Lodge No 636 IOOF of Jordan and charter member of Washington Camp No 391 POS of A, and member of Lowhill Mutual Beneficial Association of Claussville.

**C. Daniel Werley**, Veterinarian, Jordan. Born on November 25, 1871, and lived in Jordan (Pleasant Corner). He married Alice Adam. I could find no record of children.

**Elmer J. Bachman**, born Oct 1, 1871, the son of Jacob Bachman. He was a director in the Berks Lehigh Telegraph and Telephone Co. He sold Willys Knight, Dodge, Chrysler, farm implements, and Dexter washing machines. They had one son, Amandus F who married Ella Lauchnor.

**Francis W. Harter**, born December 11, 1852 on the homestead and was a successful farmer. Married in 1873 to Rosa Snyder, a daughter of Christian Snyder and had the following children: Aaron J, Carolina T (married William Krause), and Emma L (married Robert E Peter). Francis also served as a school director. Aaron Harter, brother-in-law's William Krause, and Robert Peter, would later serve on the board together.

**James W. Loy**, merchant and Justice of the Peace of New Tripoli, was a native of Albany Twp, Berks County born on June 24, 1871. Reared on a farm until he was 18. Employed in the store of W F Krause for four years. On Feb 13, 1905 he started a store in the public house of Menno O. Bachman. He married Sep 1893 to Annie E. Follweiler, daughter of John B. Follweiler of Wanamakers, and had three children. They were members of the Ebenezer Lutheran congregation.

**Menno O. Bachman**, son of Phaon and Caroline Weaver, was born June 9, 1866, in Lynn Township. He worked on the homestead farm until 1892, when he began dealing in cattle which business he followed until 1898. In 1898 he engaged in the lumber business and

operated a portable sawmill until he became the proprietor of the “The New Tripoli House,” in Nov 15, 1905 and ran this busy hostelry till he died. He purchased the store and hotel built by William F Krause, in 1887. He also drew the plan for new bank. He was married to Ellen F Kern on May 31, 1893 and they had no children.

**Dr. Samuel T. Zehner**, son of Charles Zehner of West Penn Twp Schuylkill County, born June 6, 1876, and married Cora Ada Zimmerman in 1901. Attended Jefferson Medical University in Philadelphia and graduated in 1902. Started general practice of medicine in Lynnport in 1903 and had five children. And were members of Ebenezer Lutheran Church, New Tripoli.

**Nathan H Snyder**, son of Daniel, born July 14, 1886, brought up on his fathers farm and began farming the homestead in 1891, which he enlarged to two hundred acres. In 1887 he married Ellen L. Stump and they have six children: John; Homer M, married Alice Loch; Mary C; Arthur D, married Anna DeLong; Paul C, married Edna M. Kunkel; and Ellen May.

**Phaon B. Oswald**, teacher of Lynn Township Schools for about thirty years, retiring in 1910. He was the father of Gustave E. Oswald.

**Gustave E. Oswald** was a schoolteacher also. He served as principal of Hokendauqua, Tamaqua, and Catasauqua schools.

**Charles S. Oswald**, son of Lewis H, born February 9, 1871, and spent his youth on the farm. In 1896 he succeeded his father in the store and hotel business and also the 80-acre farm. He was one of the organizers of the Berks and Lehigh Telegraph and Telephone Co organized in 1910. He became postmaster at Lynnport in 1896. He married Messina K. Smith, daughter of William Smith and Carolina Kistler Smith, on November 9, 1890, and they had five children: Ida M, George F, Howard J, Florence E, and Ellwood R. They were members of the Reformed congregation at Steinsville.

**Joshua N. Oldt**, father of Calvin Oldt was a farmer and lived on a farm located on the road from Steins Corner to Krumsville.

**James O. Ebert**, son of Amandes and Sarah Ann Moser Ebert, was born on July 2, 1868, in Lynn Township and married Ellen M. Snyder in Audenreid, PA on April 10, 1898. His brother, Rev Alfred O. Ebert, performed the marriage.

**Aaron J. Harter**, son of Francis W and Rosa Snyder, was born July 10, 1874, on the Michael Harter homestead where he remained until he was 29 years old. He was the second generation to serve as a bank director. In 1903 he began shipping potatoes and selling farm implements. In 1908 he became general agent for the Baugh Fertilizer Company and continued selling farm implements. He made a creditable run for County Commissioner in 1911. He married Dec 1, 1902 to Alice Metzger and had three children; Florence L, Lillie M (died in infancy) and Clarence M. His family belonged to the Heidelberg Lutheran congregation. Aaron was a son of a founding Director.

**Elmer C. Kistler** born May 18, 1886, son of William S. Kistler and Maria Grim, married Lucy Anna (Annie) Reimert. Their first child, George, died at three months of age; Eva M. Kistler Weiss born next; and William A. Kistler their three children lived on Hummingbird Road located near Lynnvillle. Elmer was a notary public and did taxes. He made a creditable run for County Commissioner. He walked to the Bank on meeting days and was Secretary to the board for many years and generally one of the other directors drove him home after the meeting. He had a very distinguished handwriting.

**Henry F. Kistler**, son of David J and Maria Fetherolf, was born in Lynn Twp Aug 12, 1866. He lived on the homestead and helped his mother after his dad died. In 1890 he purchased the 117-acre homestead. In 1899 he moved to Wanamaker and purchased the Daniel Wanamaker farm of 116 acres that he enlarged by purchasing 36 acres. This farm was in the Wanamaker family four generations. He sold the Kistler Valley farm and purchased the Martin Donat farm consisting of 275 acres. All of the lands owned by him were well adapted for cultivation of potatoes and he grew upwards of 9000 bushels annually and is frequently referred to as the "Potato King" of eastern Pennsylvania.

**John P. Gehringer**, son of Daniel and Flora Anna Peter, was born on the homestead farm, July 28, 1868. He assisted his father until he died in 1899, when he became the owner of the 120-acre farm. He was elected for four terms as school director and served as treasurer. In 1890 he married Ellen Kline, daughter of Peter, of Greenwich Twp, Berks County. They had one child, Mary who married Andrew Wisser and they had a son Marvin. They were members of the Grimsvillle church in Berks County. I remember Bill Betz telling me that the John had a picnic grove in the woods and the bank employees had summer picnics there a number of years.

**Robert E. Peter**, son-in-law of Francis W. Harter, and brother-in-law to Aaron J Harter. He was another second-generation director as he married Francis Harter's daughter, Emma L. Harter.

**George J. Bausch**, son of Joseph and Lydia Werley was born in Lynnville on January 6, 1885. He married Ada J. Bachman and had one daughter Ruth E. Bausch who married Alfred Beiler. Ruth and Alfred have two children, Richard who married Bonnie Koch; and Judy, a current bank employee, married Sterling Ritter. Ruth continues to live on the family farm, which her parents farmed for many years.

**William B. Krause**, born January 6, 1878, married Carolina T. Harter; daughter of Francis W. Harter, and by this marriage became a second-generation director. They had one child, George F Krause who married Miriam A Peters. Son-In-Law of a founding Director.

**Ralph D. Weaver**, son of Cleveland H and Hattie Feinour was born August 13, 1908 and married Viola Leibensperger. They have two children: Marilyn M who married Russell T. Oswald; and Jean Schrimmer. Ralph was the owner and founder of Ralph D Weaver Inc, a fuel oil, coal, and plumbing and heating business. His grandsons are continuing to run the business. Ralph was a great fan of the Indy 500 and he and Viola attended many races.

**George F. Krause**, son of William B. Krause and Carolina Harter, was born December 9, 1899, and married Miriam A. Peters, daughter of Alvena Delong and Hiram T Peters. George died at the relatively young age of 52 on December 21, 1951, just twenty weeks after he was elected a director. His term was the shortest of any director. George's father, William died February 8, 1951, and then George just 10 months later. George and Miriam had one son Paul, born Jan 21, 1931. Paul lost his father and grandfather in the same year. George was a third generation Director.

**Paul C. Snyder**, son of Nathan H. Snyder and Ellen Stump, was the second generation to serve as a director. He married Edna M. Kunkel and they had the following children: Mildred, wife of James Farber; Annabelle, wife of Allen Kunkle; Mary Ann, wife of James Knecht; and son Daniel. He did general contracting, hauling, plumbing, electrical work, and sold appliances. I continue to own a Norge chest type freezer he sold to me in 1960 and have not had a service call. Paul was a son of a founding director.

**M. Nathan Kunkel** married Ethel Wiesner, daughter of Eli Weisner and they had a daughter, Lennia who married Dr Kutz. He ran the Kunkel's mill near Stony Run.

**Amandus F. Bachman**, son of Elmer J. Bachman, born Sep. 27, 1899, married Ella Lauchnor and they had one daughter Mildred. Amandus continued in the garage business and also sold Willys Knight, Dodge, Chrysler cars, and washing machines. He started to ease out of farm implements. Amandus was the son of a founding Director.

**Paul W. Krause**, son of George F. Krause and Miriam Peters, was born on January 26, 1931, on the family farm and married Lorraine Hausman. His father died at a young age and Paul took over the family farm. He attended Penn State University and had a well-rounded farm management background and hands on experience. He farmed much of the farm acreage in potatoes and was a great potato farmer. He was also active as an advisor to the 4-H Baby Beef Club. Their three daughters Carol, Diane, and Debra all know about raising heifers and steers. In fact, in September, 1986, Debra, a junior at Northern Lehigh, won the title Supreme Champion Heifer with her entry of a Black Angus Heifer at the Allentown Fair. If the Krause girls were competing, you knew you were up against some tough competition. The Krause farm has been in the family since 1811 when it was purchased by Paul's great-great-great grandfather George. It has been designated a Century Farm by the State Agricultural Department. Paul is a fourth generation Director and has served 46 years, the longest to date.

**William (Bill) A. Betz** born in Lynn Township on November 13, 1919, son of Charles A. Betz and Estella Werley. He graduated from Slatington High School in 1936, and from Allentown Business College 1938. He married Anne R. Schaffer and they had one daughter, Sylvia. He served in the U S Army Medical Dept for four years during World War II and achieved the rank of master sergeant. He worked for the New Tripoli National Bank for 53 years before retiring in 1994 as Chairman of the Board. He served as a director from January, 1967 to June, 1994.

**Carl D. Snyder**, son of Arthur Snyder and Anna DeLong was born in 1923, graduated Valley Forge Military Junior College, and Muhlenberg College and married Kathryn (Kitty Snyder) his high-school sweetheart. He continued to operate the family farm that his grandfather, Nathan, had started and added several farms to that operation. You might say that he was a true gentlemen farmer. He served with the U S Army Infantry from 1942-45 and received the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart and four Bronze Battle Stars. He

served on the Northwestern Lehigh School Board and was President for many years, Lehigh Valley Airport Authority, Grundsow Lodge, Cemetery Assn Ebenezer Church, Lehigh County Historical Society and many, many, more organizations. I believe Carl would want to be remembered for his interest in “Grundsow” lodges and Lynn-Heidelberg Historical Society. He was instrumental in organizing the historical society and was its President thorough the early years. He and Kitty had two daughters: Rebecca, married Dale Phillips; and Sally, married Glenn Smith. Carl was a third generation Director.

**Norman L Dietrich**, born September 13, 1915, Married Mildred Bachman September 8, 1945. He served his country with honor and distinction in World War II and was discharged in 1945. He operated Bachman's Garage in Kempton for many years after his father-in-law retired and continued selling cars and servicing them. He and Mildred have three children: Daniel, Louise, and Kathleen. Norman was a third generation Director.

**Willard A. Snyder** was born in Andreas, Pennsylvania, on January 17, 1936. I am the son of Guy H. Snyder and Margaret U. Kemmerer. Graduated from Lehighon High School in 1953, attended Bloomsburg State Teachers College and earned my B.S. in Business Education in 1957. I married Lucille C George, my high school sweetheart and the love of my life and we have three sons, Gregory, Stephen, and Scott, eight Grandchildren and two great grandchildren. I taught business subjects at Northwestern Lehigh High School for three years and on June 1, 1960, started as a clerk at The New Tripoli National Bank. The bank had six million in assets and six employees at that time. I became a Director in June of 1983 and continue to serve as Board Chairman.

**Russell T. Oswald** born Feb3, 1929, he was the son of Floyd T. Oswald and Addie C Herber. He married Marilyn M. Weaver. They had three children; Bonita A, David R and Larry D. Russell worked for Ralph D. Weaver driving coal truck etc and doing all the things a son-in-law could do to learn the business. When Ralph died, Russell and Marilyn became owners of Ralph D. Weaver Inc. Russell was an avid baseball player and played many games for the local New Tripoli team. He hit a long ball and before he married Marilyn she could be found at all his games cheering him on.

**Sylvia Betz Gardner** born February 21, 1948, is the daughter of William A. Betz and Anne R. Schaeffer. She graduated from Northwestern High School 1966, Cedar Crest College in 1971 with BA, Lehigh University 1987 with an MBA, Executive Program School of Business. She was employed at Columbia University from 1975-2000 and served as

Administrative Director-Center for Clinical Research and Ass't Dean for Finance and Administration. She is a Trustee of Cedar Crest College, and serves as Treasurer of the Lynn-Heidelberg Historical Society and is active in many organizations. She is married to John.

**David R. Hunsicker**, son of Sterling Hunsicker and Lula Schertzinger, born October 4, 1952 in the Allentown Hospital and a native of Heidelberg Township has three sisters and two brothers. Eleanor (deceased) married Melvin Snyder; Doreen, married Sterling Reinert; Laverne, married Patricia Steigerwalt; Marlene; and Dennis, his twin brother, married Beverly Shive, and most of the family continues to live in Heidelberg Township. Dave married his high school sweetheart, Barbara Mantz, June 5, 1971 and they have two children, David Jr, married Mamura Azizova, and Monica married Brian Lazarus. David and Barbara have three grandchildren. David is President and CEO of New Tripoli Bank and became a Director in December of 1996 and continues to serve on the board.

**Sally K. Snyder Smith** born 1951 is the daughter of Carl D. Snyder and Kathryn "Kitty" Snyder. She graduated from Northwestern High School 1969; Kutztown State College in 1972 with BS in Elementary Education; and Lehigh University 1979 Masters in Elementary Education. Married Glenn A Smith in 1973 and they own Olde Homestead Golf Club. They have three children: Jarrad N, West Point graduate, married Heide; Justin N, Albright graduate, married Hilary; and Sarah K, Susquehanna University graduate. Sally was an elementary teacher at Parkland and Northwestern and is currently actively engaged in the Olde Homestead Golf course. She was active in the Pennsylvania German Society, Grundsow Lodge No 1, Snyder Lehigh Farms, Ebenezer Cemetery Assn, Ebenezer UCC Sunday school superintendent, UCC youth leader and currently Ebenezer UCC Consistory and Elder. She is currently a trustee of the Lynn-Heidelberg Historical Society, which her father, Carl D. Snyder, was instrumental in starting. Sally is a fourth generation Director.

**Larry D. Oswald** born June 3, 1959, and his parents are Russell T. Oswald and Marilyn M Weaver. He graduated from Northwestern High School in 1977 and Lehigh Carbon Community College in 1980. He married Christine Gehringer and they have three children: Jessica L, Alyssa C, and Michael P. He is active in sports and attends every high school football game to watch his son play. His daughter Alyssa was one of the girls who started the Relay for Life at Northwestern as part of her senior project. Larry is an avid hunter and

when hunting season comes around your sure to find him in the woods. He is a member of the Ontelaunee Rod & Gun Club and shoots on the trap team. Larry is a third generation Director.

**Debra A. Hunsicker** born May 3, 1970 in Allentown to Paul W. Krause and Lorraine Hausman. She graduated from Northern Lehigh as Valedictorian, and her activities included National Honor Society, track and field, cross country, and ski club. Debra graduated in 1992 from Elizabethtown College with a BS in Accounting. During college, studied abroad for a semester in Cheltenham, England. College activities included President of Delta Mu Delta (business honor society) and President of Accounting/Finance Club. While growing up, involved in 4-H (beef club, home-economics club, livestock judging potato judging) and Grange. September 92-June 1995 worked as an Auditor at Ernst & Young in Philadelphia (transferred to Reading office Oct 1994). July 1995 to present, an accountant at Air Products and Chemicals, Inc in Trexlertown and currently working part-time, primarily from home. Married Douglas S Hunsicker Jr at Heidelberg Church and they have three children: Sara Jordan, born Sep 22, 1999; Emily Grace, born March 12, 2003; and Jackson Douglas, born November 25, 2005. Debra's current certifications and involvements include Certified Public Accountant, Certified Management Accountant, Financial Secretary, New Life Evangelical Lutheran Church, and Northern Lehigh Elementary PTO. Debra is a fifth generation Director.